

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE TORRANCE COMMISSION ON AGING

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order on January 12, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizen Center.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Callen, Cardella, Craft, Draper*, Kraemer,
Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino

Absent: Commissioner Thomas

Staff: Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand
Commissioner Draper* (arrived at 9:37 a.m.)

FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Callen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INSPIRATIONAL

Commissioner Cardella provided the following inspiration:

*In Life, we are born,
We love, we lose,
We laugh, and we die.
Some things, like losing and dying, we do not have a choice about.
But we do have a choice to love, and keep on laughing.*

ACCEPT AND FILE AFFIDAVIT OF AGENDA POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Callen moved and Commissioner Craft seconded, to accept and file the Affidavit of Agenda Posting for its meeting of January 12, 2010. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioner Thomas)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Kraemer moved and Commissioner Craft seconded, to approve the minutes of the Commission on Aging meeting of November 10, 2009. The motion carried. (Absent Commissioner Thomas)

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Bea Virobik, from Focal Point on Aging
Bobbe Callen

SENIOR CITIZENS CONCERNS

A. City Council

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the City Council approved some of the contracts for the Del Amo Boulevard extension and would begin the project. She stated that a new air conditioning unit would be installed at the Bartlett Senior Center, a designated cooling center.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that City Council had approved agreements for a state and a federal consulting contract, to pay for lobbyists to represent the city of Torrance in Sacramento and Washington, DC.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the Ad-Hoc Committee on Commission review was completed and that the Commissioners should have received the report of the changes that were implemented.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that there had been discussions at City Council regarding new cell towers that were being located in various neighborhoods and the establishment of the Tourism Business Improvement District which would tax local hotels to fund tourism improvements.

Commissioner Kraemer reported that the City and Torrance Unified School District were in discussions to combine elections, to save money and improve voter turnout.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated the City had approved the Disaster Plan for Seniors and that the Plan would be distributed through the Focal Point on Aging and linked to the City web site.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that there would be an increase of \$5.86 per month in the City sanitation fees.

B. Housing

Commissioner Draper distributed information on City of Torrance Section 8 Rental Information and neighboring emergency shelter and food programs. He stated that Torrance also provided assistance for placement in mobile homes.

Bea Virobik stated that the Focal Point on Aging Service Directory had information on agencies that distribute food and meals.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the Focal Point on Aging Service Directory was a very valuable source for information and had helped to develop partnerships with other local agencies such as police and fire departments and community services.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the Daily Breeze on November 27, 2009 had reported that the proposed senior housing condominiums near the financial center would not go forward at this time.

Commissioner Draper stated that the members of the staff of the Housing Assistance Office would be willing to attend a Commission on Aging meeting.

C. Health

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that the H1N1 flu shots were available for \$15 at Walgreens and CVS.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that Torrance Memorial Medical Center would sponsor a free Heart Health Conference on February 6 at 7:30 a.m.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that Los Angeles County was establishing a monitoring program for caregivers of seniors.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that there was an article in the Daily Breeze on electronic monitoring devices that would allow seniors to remain independent in their own homes.

D. Transportation

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that the first hybrid bus had arrived in Torrance and would be undergoing inspection for 30 to 60 days prior to the arrival of the remainder of the fleet.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that the City Council Transportation Committee would meet in February and that advertising on buses would be a possible discussion item at the meeting.

E. Cable

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the Torrance Community Television Awards would be held on January 22, 2010.

Commissioner Craft stated that producer training classes were available from Torrance Community Television.

F. Focal Point Program

Commissioner Cardella reported the following Focal Point statistics for the months of:

November 2009

Total number of documented calls:	37	Total number of callbacks:	19
Miscellaneous calls:	81	Total number of walk-ins:	19
Total number of calls received:	118		
Of the documented calls:			
43.2% were in regard to Housing		19% were for in home services	
11% were for Legal			

December 2009

Total number of documented calls:	26	Total number of callbacks:	7
Miscellaneous calls:	69	Total number of walk-ins:	14
Total number of calls received:	95		
Of the documented calls:			
66% were in regard to Housing		15.3% were for in home services	
15.3% were for Transportation			

Commissioner Cardella also reported that Focal Point participated in one health fair.

Bea Virobik stated that Focal Point currently had 12 volunteers.

G. Elder Abuse/Fraud

Commissioner Craft stated that there were some problems with phone scams and phony home repair services.

JOINT MEETING WITH CITY COUNCIL

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that joint meetings were normally held on a Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. prior to the City Council Meeting and that the Commission on Aging could choose several topics to discuss and share information on.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that she would schedule the joint meeting with the City Council. She also stated that the Commission should continue to leave the joint meeting as an agenda item and plan topics for the meeting.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Callen, Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that the Section 8 rental assistance waiting list was periodically opened and then closed when full.

ORALS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Kraemer stated that the Torrance Symphony would hold a free concert on January 23 in the James Armstrong Theater.

Commissioner Kraemer stated that there would be a meeting on January 13 to discuss using the sump field near Bishop Montgomery High School as an athletic field.

Commissioner Callen said his goodbyes to the Commission after 25 years of service and stated that he would come back and visit.

Commissioner Craft stated that he would be teaching a computer class in the city of Carson and that one did not need to be a Carson resident to be eligible for the classes.

Commissioner Craft stated that Dominguez Rancho Adobe Museum would be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the first air show in the United States.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that applications for Commissioners were due by January 13 and that a new commissioner would be appointed on January 19, 2010.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced a Census open house in El Segundo on 2:00 p.m. on January 12, 2010.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino stated that census reminder announcements and updates will be read at every City Council meeting through April.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that nominations for the Older American Awards were due as soon as the February meeting, so that there will be time to gather the necessary paperwork.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand thanked Commissioner Callen for his longstanding service to the City. Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand stated that Commissioner Callen was always very supportive of the City and the City staff and was responsible for many projects that benefitted the seniors of Torrance.

Chairperson Kimmel-Dagostino announced that there would be a luncheon to honor Commissioner Callen on February 9, after the next Commission on Aging meeting.

Senior Recreation Supervisor Wand thanked Bobbe Callen for sharing Commissioner Callen with the Commission and the City.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m. to the next regular meeting on Tuesday, February 9, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. in the Hosler Conference Room at the Bartlett Senior Citizens Center.

Approved as amended February 9, 2010 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
